

( Copy )

Battle Creek, Mich., Aug. 8, 1901.

Claburne, Texas. S. D. A. Camp Ground.

Dear Brother:-

Yours of August 3d is just at hand. I can help you on the matters you write about. The letter from Sister White to E. J. Wagoner and A. T. Jones is a correct copy according to the same which I have in my possession. In regard to what sister White wrote to J. H. Wagoner as to his position on the law in Galations, I am knowing something about that. J. H. Wagoner wrote his pamphlet on "The Law of God" in Rochester, N. Y., and it was published there before the office was moved to Battle Creek in 1855. In that work he takes the position that the "added law" of Gal. 3:19, and the "school master" of verse 24 was the moral law. He says, "So it is evident that the law spoken of in Gal. 3: 19,24, is a moral law, one that will detect and convince of sin." Page 31. The brethren in Vermont were so stirred up over this question that they sent Elder Stephen Pierce, on here to Battle Creek in 1856 to have a study on the question of the law of Gal. in Galations. J. H. Wagoner was then here in Battle Creek but was living in Burlington, Michigan. He would not stay to the examination but returned to his home. So the time was given to Brother Pierce, and we had meetings at different times for some three days going over the whole question. Brother Wagoner took the position, (or had taken it in his book) that the law in Galations was the moral law. Brother Pierce argued that it was the "law system" including the ceremonial law. I was then quite young in the truth, and as these questions were new to me, I watched all points as closely as I could. The result was, that all present, including both brother and sister White became convinced that brother Pierce had

the right view, and that J. H. Wagoner was wrong. Sister White, shortly after this had a vision in which the law question was shown her, and she immediately wrote J. H. Wagoner that his position on the law was wrong and that brother Pierce was right. Brother White then took brother Wagoner's book out of the market; for we all then considered the matter settled. Wagoner repeatedly solicited that his book on the law be republished, but White said No; until you revise your position on the law. He never would do this and so the book was never re-published. We have one copy of it here in the office. The next we heard of it was when E. J. Wagoner came out in the Signs and Instructor, and taught in Healdsburg College, taking the old position of his father, which sister White had pronounced wrong. This stirred up brother Butler to correspond with sister White who was then in Switzerland; and that called forth the letter from her to brother Butler, a copy of which you enclosed. This course of E. J. Wagoner's opened up the whole question again, and the determined men on that side have carried quite an influence, and those who have had charge of our publications have given them the field; but those who know the history that I have related cannot change on that account. When men, to save their position, have to take the position, as E. J. Wagoner and others do, that the seed has not come yet, they are in a pretty tight place, in my opinion. Some try to make it appear that when sister White said to J. H. Wagoner that his position was wrong, she did not mean his position on the law in Galatians; but I was there when the investigation took place, and know that the only issue involved was whether the law in Paul speaks of as "added" was the moral law or not. Wagoner said it was the moral law; Pierce said No, but that it included more. The Jews had come to believe that they could be justified from every-

being wrong by the law of Moses. Acts 13:39. So when Paul preached Christ as the sole means of justification, the Jews said, No, we can be justified by circumcision, offerings, our priestly atonement, and other services. So, to make way for Christ, Paul had to take these all out of the way, saying they were only designed to continue until the seed should come, and they were an object lesson leading and pointing the way to Christ. I could say more; but this will probably be sufficient. I hope the truth will prevail. If you have any other questions you wish to ask, I shall be happy to answer them if I can.

Very truly yours,

U. Smith.

L.W.  
Copied.